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## **ARTISTS INVITED TO SUBMIT QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC ART AT BUFFALOE ROAD AQUATIC CENTER**

The City of Raleigh is seeking qualifications from artists to provide site-specific public art for the new Buffalo Road Aquatic Center. This recreational swimming facility will be a regional destination located within the 167-acre Buffalo Road Athletic Park that also has athletic fields and hiking trails, wetlands, and, in the near future, connection to a greenway along the Neuse River.

Designed by Szostak Design of Chapel Hill, the aquatic center will include a leisure pool with a giant water slide, a zero-depth entry and other pool features as well as a concession area, locker rooms, and support spaces. The Buffalo Road Aquatic Center is funded by an \$88.6 million bond referendum approved by Raleigh voters in 2007.

Public art at selected City of Raleigh sites is authorized by the Half Percent for Art Ordinance established by the City Council in 2009 and implemented by the City's Public Art and Design Board and the City's Arts Commission. The Buffalo Road Aquatic Center has been selected for public art based on its impact on a broad regional audience and its unique accessibility in a suburban watershed.

Under goals established by the Public Art and Design Board, the public art at the Buffalo Road Aquatic Center will encourage visitors to reflect on the natural beauty of Buffalo Road Athletic Park, recognize the creative spirit of the architecture, and engage visitors and enhance experiences of the park and swimming facility. Themes that public art at the aquatic center might address include, but are not limited to: water in its different forms, water stewardship and

conservation, water and healthy lifestyles, and the intersection at the facility of people of very different ages and abilities.

The selection process will have two rounds. In the first round, an Artist Selection Panel appointed by the Public Art and Design Board will evaluate qualifications of artists based on five criteria: artistic merit, place making experience, experience in collaborative public art processes, project management experience, and technical expertise. The Artist Selection Panel will identify up to three finalists to invite to Raleigh for interviews, the second round of the selection process. The finalists will receive a stipend of \$500 to cover all travel and related expenses associated with the interview.

The project budget is \$70,000 inclusive of all expenses. Qualifications must be submitted via CaFE (<http://www.callforentry.org/>) by 5 p.m. EDT on Friday, April 9. There is no fee to submit qualifications.

For more information contact Jerry Bolas, public art coordinator for the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, at 831-2414 or email [gerald.bolas@ci.raleigh.nc.us](mailto:gerald.bolas@ci.raleigh.nc.us). For application guidelines and relevant plans, visit the Arts Commission at [www.raleighnc.gov/arts](http://www.raleighnc.gov/arts) (under the category "Picture," select Public Art.)

Established in 1977 as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the Raleigh City Council, the City of Raleigh Arts Commission holds the distinction of being the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. Serving as the leading force to champion the arts with Raleigh citizens and their representatives, the Arts Commission's myriad activities foster, support, and promote the arts in the Capital City.